

**Statement of Jerome Ringo
Chief Business Officer
BARD Holdings Inc.**

My name is Jerome Ringo. I am the Chief Business Officer for Bard Holdings, an algae cultivation, harvesting and extraction project.

My thanks to the Chairman and members of this committee for inviting me to speak today on this most important subject.

After twenty-five plus years of working in Louisiana's petro-chemical industry (all as a member of the Oil Chemical and Atomic Workers Union), thirteen years as a board member of the National Wildlife Federation, seven years heading the Apollo Alliance (17 million member alternative energy coalition) and currently with Bard Holding (with its advanced technologies in alternative fuel production), I come to offer a prospective on what I consider to be a very negative impact, on what is intended to bring positive results.

Understanding America's growing appetite for energy and our need for economic stimulation, it is important that we meet the energy demand with as minimal adverse impact as possible. I clearly recognize the jobs impact of construction projects such as the Keystone Pipeline. At the same time, I believe that such a project in the shorter term may be good to us, but in the long term may not be good for us.

The obvious destruction and contamination of northern Canada, along with the safety challenges, health and environmental risk to the American people of such a pipeline is immeasurable.

The Keystone pipeline will transfer highly corrosive and toxic sludge, under high pressures through extremely sensitive routes that potentially threatens the quality of aquifers, as well as the quality of life of citizens along its route.

A tar sludge pipeline recently dumped 800,000 gallons of contaminates into Michigan's Kalamazoo River. The proposed route takes the pipeline through aquifers in northern Nebraska, which provides irrigation for much of America's breadbasket, and drinking water for two million people. We can ill afford such sacrifices to meet energy needs.

As we continue our dependency on foreign oil, with a goal to declare energy independence, it is critical that we not shift our dependency from the Middle East to Canada. Our goal is to not switch seats on a sinking ship.

The middle ground answer lies in creating jobs to meet America's energy demand, while simultaneously improving the state of our environment and our economy. The answer lies in increased investment in the research and development of green alternative energy projects. The American Solar Energy Society estimated that in 2006 alone, renewable energy and energy efficiency were responsible for \$970 billion in industry revenues and 8.5 million jobs.

We in America are actually facing a labor shortage in sectors like manufacturing. The American Association of Manufacturers performed a survey where 90% of their responders indicated a moderate or severe shortage of qualified, skilled production employees like machinists and technicians, with 1/3 of our workforce being eligible for retirement in the next seven years. Building this pipeline may offer a short-term solution, but contribute to a long-term problem.

I urge the Congress to put the long-term interest of the American people as its top priority and reconsider its position in supporting project like the Keystone Pipeline.